

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CD, FR, GB

SUBJ: GABONESE MEDIATION IN FRANCO-CHADIAN DISPUTE

REF: LIBREVILLE 2102

1. TRIPARTITE MEETING OF FRENCH MINISTER FOR EQUIPMENT GALLEY, CHADIAN FONMIN KAMOUQUE, AND GOG FONMIN OKUMBA TOOK PLACE IN LIBREVILLE AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL, CULMINATING IN MEETING OF GOC AND GOF REPRESENTATIVES DECEMBER 22 WITH PRESIDENT BONGO. VISITING DELEGATIONS, ACCOMPANIED BY OKUMBA, LEFT LIBREVILLE DECEMBER 23 FOR NDJAMENA.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY SAID RESULTS OF MEETING WERE POSITIVE FROM GOF VIEWPOINT, AND HELPED SMOOTH OVER SOME DC REMAINING DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PRINCIPLE OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS NOW FULLY ACCEPTED ON CHADIAN SIDE, AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS LARGELY CONCERN THE CASH CONTENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP IN TERMS OF FRENCH AID. CHADIANS ARE SEEKING CONTINUATION OF FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN FIELDS, THOUGH SOME OF MODALITIES REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DELAUNAY SAID GABONESE MEDIATION ROLE HAD INDEED BEEN HELPFUL IN ASSUAGING SOME OF CHADIAN FEELINGS OF WOUNDED PRIDE, THOUGH RECONCILIATION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE OCCURRED EVEN WITHOUT GOG ASSISTANCE. GABONESE HAD NEVERTHELESS EASED AND SPEEDED THE PROCESS, AND GOF APPRECIATED ROLE THEY HAD PLAYED.

4. IN FINAL COMMENT, DELAUNAY REMARKED THAT "CLAUSTRE AFFAIR" HAD NOT EVEN BEEN MENTIONED IN MOST RECENT GOC-GOF CONVERSATIONS, AND NOW APPEARED TO BE "DEAD LETTER" BOTH AS ISSUE IN RELATIONSHIP OF TWO COUNTRIES AND AS MATTER OF ANY CONCERN TO GOF. STEIGMAN

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